	Application No.	**Applicant(s)**
Notice of Allowability	09/662,499	BELLAMY ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Khanh Dinh	2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *4/28/2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1 and 3-18*.

3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some*   c)☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a)☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1)☒ hereto or 2)☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b)☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☒ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
    of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

Khanh Dinh

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Nathaniel T. Wallace (the Undersigned Attorney, Reg. No.48,909) on 4/28/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please *cancel* claim 2.

Please **amend** claims 1, 3 and 11 as follows:

--1. (Twice amended) A method for representing a user within an online

environment comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of environmental parameters for controlling user interaction,

the environmental parameters including two-dimensional space parameter and a time

parameter, wherein defining, the plurality of environment parameters comprises,

determining an environmental structure,

governing user interaction within the environment according to the user

parameters and the environmental structure, and

displaying an abstract graphical cue of a first parameter of the user in the

abstract graphical display of the environment, wherein the abstract graphical cue moves

through the abstract graphical display of the environment according to a second

parameter of the user to provide a second abstract graphic cue;

defining a plurality of user representation parameters of user data within the

environment;

capturing user data from the user;

displaying an abstract graphical display of the environment to the user; and

displaying a user representation within the abstract graphical display

incorporating the user data to the user, wherein the user representation appears at a

location in the two-dimensional space according to a level of user activity over time.

3. (Once Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the environmental

structure is one of an auction, a queue of users, a chat room, a conference room, a

news group, an online help desk, and a business interface.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for representing a social proxy comprising the

steps of:

displaying an abstract graphical display of the social proxy for a virtual

environment and facilitating user interaction, wherein the social proxy is a geometric

shape defining a boundary of the virtual environment, wherein the social proxy for the

virtual environment includes a two-dimensional space parameter and a time parameter,

wherein displaying the abstract graphical display of the social proxy for a virtual

environment comprises,

determining the geometric shape,

governing user interaction within the social proxy according to the geometric

shape, and

displaying an abstract graphical cue of a first parameter of the user in the

abstract graphical display of the social proxy for a virtual environment, wherein the

abstract graphical cue moves through the abstract graphical display of the social proxy

for a virtual environment according to a second parameter of the user to provide a

second abstract graphical cue;

defining a user proxy for a user, the user proxy having updatable variables;

displaying the user proxy within the geometric shape defining the boundary of the

virtual environment, wherein the user proxy appears at a location in the two-dimensional

space according to a level of user activity over time; and

updating user proxy variables periodically.—

Allowable Subject Matter

2.   Claims 1 and 3-18 are allowed.

3.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mention claims are allowable over the prior art of record does not

appear to each or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific

added limitations as recited in independent claims and subsequent dependent claims.

In independent claim 1, none of the cited prior art discloses or teaches a method

for representing a user within an online environment comprising a combination of steps

of: defining a plurality of environmental parameters for controlling user interaction, the

environmental parameters including two-dimensional space parameter and a time

parameter; the plurality of environment parameters comprising of determining an

environmental structure, governing user interaction within the environment according to

the user parameters and the environmental structure. The invention further discloses

the step of displaying an abstract graphical cue of a first parameter of the user in the

abstract graphical display of the environment, wherein the abstract graphical cue moves

through the abstract graphical display of the environment according to a second

parameter of the user to provide a second abstract graphic cue and wherein the user

representation appears at a location in the two-dimensional space according to a level

of user activity over time.

In independent claim 11, none of the cited prior art discloses or teaches a

method for representing a social proxy comprising a combination of steps of: displaying

an abstract graphical display of the social proxy for a virtual environment and facilitating

user interaction, wherein the social proxy is a geometric shape defining a boundary of

the virtual environment, wherein the social proxy for the virtual environment includes a

two-dimensional space parameter and a time parameter. The invention further

discloses determining the geometric shape, governing user interaction within the social

proxy according to the geometric shape, and displaying an abstract graphical cue of a

first parameter of the user in the abstract graphical display of the social proxy for a

virtual environment, wherein the abstract graphical cue moves through the abstract

graphical display of the social proxy for a virtual environment according to a second

parameter of the user to provide a second abstract-graphical cue and wherein the user

proxy appears at a location in the two-dimensional space according to a level of user

activity over time.

Other prior art cited

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

      a. Erickson et al., US pat. No.6,591,265: Dynamic behavior-based access

control system.

Conclusion

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Khanh Dinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-

3936. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.m.

to 5:00 P.m.

      If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Zarni Maung, can be reached on (571) 272-3939.   The fax phone number

for this group is (703) 872-9306.

      Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Khanh/

Khanh Dinh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2151
4/30/2005